



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/744,692	06/12/2001	Massimo Aleardi	713-428	3317

7590

10/06/2003

Lowe Hauptman Gilman & Berner
Suite 310
1700 Diagonal Road
Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/744,692

Applicant(s)

ALEARDI ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 5, line 2, "said strips" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foederer (4,391,484).

Foederer, figures 1 and 7-8, discloses a board mounted electronic device comprising:

- a board (35) supporting electronic components and at least one conductive track (36) connected to the electronic component to form an electric circuit; and
- at least one terminal (4) for electrically connecting the circuit and a respective insulated electric wire (40) comprising an inner conductor (41) and insulating sheath (42) coated and applied to the inner conductor;

Art Unit: 2839

wherein the terminal comprising a metal blade bent into an L shape outwards to the plane of the board. The blade defining means for mechanically retaining and electrically connecting the electric wire which act on an end portion of the inner conductor. The blade further comprising a slot having cutting edges (27, 28) for cutting the insulating sheath. The slot comprising a semicircular seat (7) of a diameter substantially equal to that of the inner conductor of the electric wire and smaller than the diameter of the insulating sheath. The slot receives one end of the electric wire to cut the insulating sheath to such a depth as to establish contact between the blade and the inner conductor of the electric wire, while at the same time forming a joint to mechanically retain the electric wire inside the seat.

Foederer discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for the terminal comprising the metal blade, which is an integral extension of the track of the circuit.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Foederer to have the metal blade which is an integral extension of the track of the circuit, since it has been held that forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces and put together involves only routine skill in the art. *Howard v. Detroit Stove Works*, 150 U.S. 164 (1893), in order to reduce the cost of assembly.

Regarding claim 3, the slot is substantially in the form of V shaped groove for assisting insertion of the end of the electric wire inside the seat, which is formed at the vertex of the V defining the groove.

Regarding claim 4, the circuit comprising a number of the tracks, each defining by a semicut metal applied to the board.

Regarding claim 5, the board is molded from synthetic plastic resin and the strip is co-molded with the board.

4. Claims 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foederer (4,391,484) in view of Reynolds et al. (4,261,629).

Regarding claims 6 and 8, Foederer discloses the limitations as described in claims 2-5 above except for the terminal comprising the metal blade, which is an integral extension of the track of the circuit, and the seat describes a circular curve extending for more than 180°.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Foederer to have the metal blade which is an integral extension of the track of the circuit, since it has been held that forming in one piece an article which has formerly been formed in two pieces and put together involves only routine skill in the art. *Howard v. Detroit Stove Works*, 150 U.S. 164 (1893), in order to reduce the cost of assembly.

Reynolds et al., figure 1, disclose a terminal (2) having a seat (A, attachment) which describes a circular curve extending for more than 180°. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Foederer's terminal to have the seat as taught by Reynolds et al., in order have an alternative size to retain the electric wire.

Regarding claims 7 and 9-10, it is noted that Reynolds et al. disclose a distance between the adjacent ends of the cutting edges is smaller than the diameter of the circular curve.

Regarding claim 11, Foederer discloses the inner conductor is partially cut by the cutting edges at the end of the insulated wire.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

Art Unit: 2839

7. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

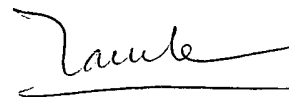
For additional information regarding this new address, which was effective May 1, 2003, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

Or faxed to: 703-308-7722 or 308-7724 (informal or draft communications should be clearly labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (receptionist)
2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia

TL.



Thanh-Tam Le

AU. 2839.

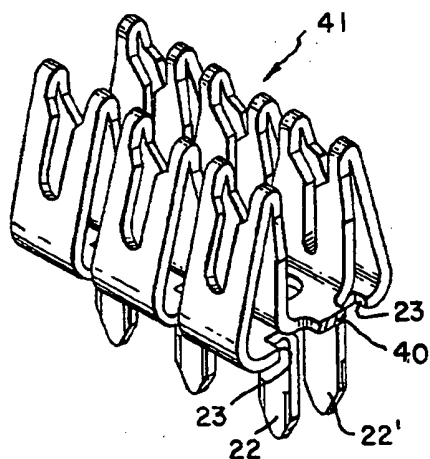
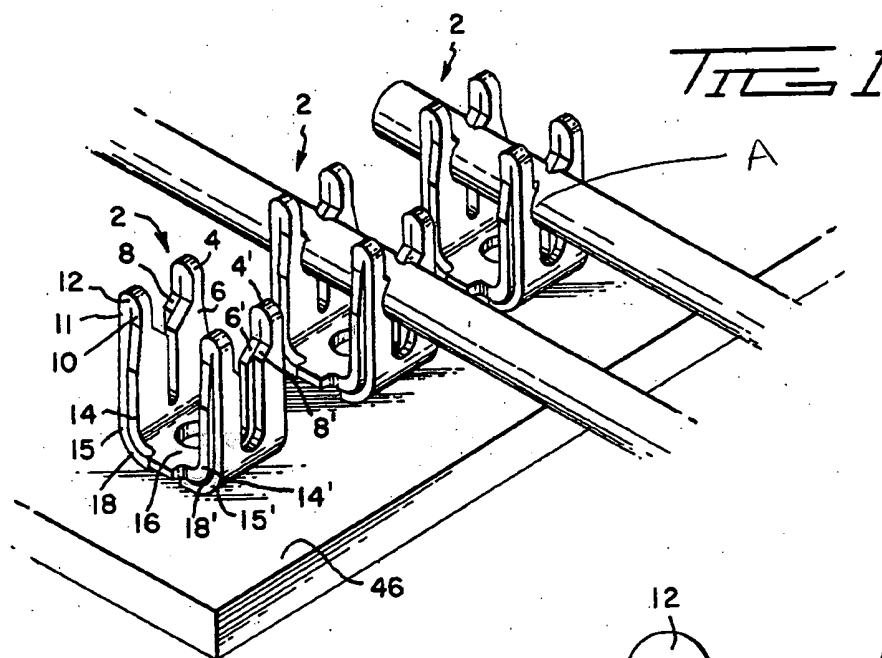


FIG. 4

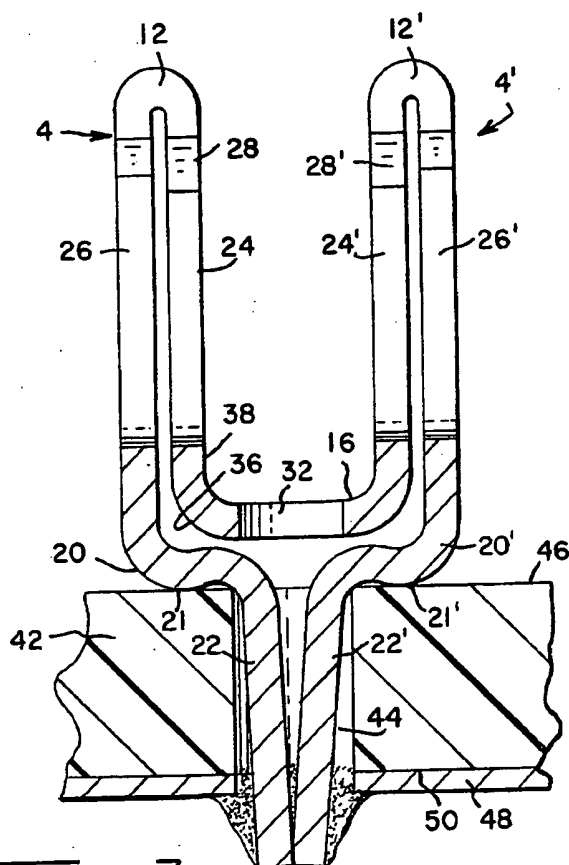


FIG. 2